

CLAIMS

I Claim:

- 1 1. A method for formatting text in a document comprising the following
2 steps:
3 (a) placing bounding shapes around each word in the text;
4 (b) situating a first word in a first valid location within a page; and,
5 (c) situating subsequent words in subsequent valid locations on the page,
6 wherein once any word is situated a bounding shape for the word sets out an
7 area invalid for additional word placement.
- 1 2. A method as in claim 1 wherein step (a) includes the following substep:
2 (a.1) merging space characters with a following word.
- 1 3. A method as in claim 1 wherein step (b) includes the following substeps:
2 (b.1) checking a first location on the page for placement of the first word,
3 and
4 (b.2) when the first location is invalid for text, checking a next location until
5 the first valid location is found for placement of the first word.
- 1 4. A method as in claim 1 wherein step (c) includes the following substeps:
2 (c.1) checking a next location for placement of a subsequent word;
3 (c.2) when the next location is invalid for text, checking a next location until
4 a valid location is found for placement of the subsequent word; and,
5 (c.3) repeating substep (b.1) and substep (b.2) for additional subsequent
6 words until there are no more subsequent words to place.
- 1 5. A method as in claim 1 additionally comprising the following step:
2 (d) when an image is placed in an area occupied by placed words, marking
3 the area invalid for text and reformatting the text by repeating steps (b) and (c),
4 the area marked invalid being defined by a bounding shape for the image.
- 1 6. A method as in claim 1 additionally comprising the following step
2 performed before step (b):
3 (d) processing text code that indicates which locations within the page are
4 available for text placement.
- 1 7. A method as in claim 6 wherein in step (d) the text code allows

2 specification of a bounding shape for a block of text.

1 8. A method as in claim 6 wherein in step (d) the text code allows marking
2 of areas within a page as being invalid for text placement.

1 9. A method as in claim 6 wherein in step (d) the text code allows marking
2 of an area within a shape as being valid for text placement.

1 10. A method as in claim 1 wherein step (c) includes the following
2 substeps:

3 (c.1) checking a next location for placement of a subsequent word, the next
4 location being at an end of a previous word,

5 (c.2) when the next location is invalid for text, checking a next location for
6 placement of the subsequent word until a valid location for placement of the
7 subsequent word is found, and

8 (c.3) repeating substep (b.1) and substep (b.2) for additional subsequent
9 words until there are no more subsequent words to place.

1 11. A method for formatting text in a document comprising the following
2 steps:

3 (a) placing bounding shapes around each word in the text;

4 (b) checking a next location for placement of a word;

5 (c) when the next location is invalid for text, checking a next location until a
6 valid location for placement of the word is found; and,

7 (d) repeating step (b) and step (c) for subsequent words until there are no
8 more words to place, wherein once any word is situated a bounding shape for the
9 word sets out an area invalid for additional word placement.

1 12. A method as in claim 11 wherein step (a) includes the following
2 substep:

3 (a.1) merging space characters with a following word.

1 13. A method as in claim 11 additionally comprising the following step:

2 (e) when an image is placed in an area occupied by placed words, marking
3 the area invalid for text and reformatting the text by repeating steps (b), (c) and
4 (d), the area marked invalid being defined by a bounding shape for the image.

1 14. A method as in claim 11 additionally comprising the following step
2 performed before step (b):

3 (e) processing text code that indicates which locations within the page are
4 available for text placement.

1 15. A method as in claim 14 wherein in step (e) the text code allows
2 specification of a bounding shape for a block of text.

1 16. A method as in claim 14 wherein in step (e) the text code allows
2 marking of areas within a page as being invalid for text placement.

1 17. A method as in claim 14 wherein in step (e) the text code allows
2 marking of an area within a shape as being valid for text placement.

1 18. A method as in claim 11 wherein when performing step (b) for
2 subsequent words, the next location is at an end of a previous word.

1 19. Storage media that stores software which when executed performs a
2 method for formatting text in a document comprising the following steps:

3 (a) placing bounding shapes around each word in the text;

4 (b) checking a next location for placement of a word;

5 (c) when the next location is invalid for text, checking next locations until a
6 valid location is found for placement of the word, wherein once any word is placed
7 a bounding shape for the word sets out an area invalid for additional word
8 placement; and,

9 (d) repeating step (b) and step (c) for subsequent words until there are no
10 more words to place.

1 20. Storage media as in claim 19 wherein the method additionally
2 comprises the following step performed before step (b):

3 (e) processing text code that indicates which locations within the page are
4 available for text placement.